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Message Text

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12
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 COME-00 AID-20 EB-11 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 STR-08

OMB-01 CEA-02 INT-08 FEA-02 DRC-01 NIC-01 SAJ-01

NEA-10 AF-10 /180 W
---------- 113259
R 160622Z JAN 74
FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7307
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, PL, US
SUBJECT: POLISH PRESS REACTION TO PRESIDENT NIXON'S
OIL INITIATIVE

PARIS FOR OECD MISSION: BRUSSELS FOR USEC

1. SUMMARY: POLISH PRESS COVERAGE OF THE PRESIDENT'S
INVITATION TO MAJOR OIL CONSUMING COUNTRIES TO CONSULT
ON OIL POLICY HAS BEEN EMPHASIZING WHAT IT DESCRIBES AS
THE RELUCTANCE OF WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES TO JOIN WITH
THE U.S. IN A COMMON APPROACH TO WORLD OIL PROBLEMS.
NOTING THAT THE EC HAS NOT YET AGREED ON A COMMON RESPONSE,
THE BRUSSELS CORRESPONDENT OF TRYBUNA LUDU, POLAND'S
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DAILY PARTY NEWSPAPER, ARGUES THAT MOST COMMON

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MARKET MEMBERS WOULD PREFER TO DEAL BILATERALLY WITH
ARAB PRODUCERS, AND THAT WASHINGTON'S PROPOSAL HAS FOUND
FEW ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORTERS IN WESTERN EUROPE.
ACKNOWLEDGING THAT ACCEPTANCE OF THE PRESIDENT'S INVITATION
IS NONETHELESS POSSIBLE, ALTHOUGH BY THE EC NINE RATHER
THAN THE FIVE EUROPEAN NATIONS SPECIFICALLY INVITED,
TRYBUNA LUDU CLAIMS THAT EC OFFICIALDOM IN BRUSSELS
IS EAGER TO USE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO REINVIGORATE THE
LATELY FLAGGING ENERGIES OF THE ORGANIZATION. END SUMMARY

2. ANDRZEJ BILIK, WRITING FOR TRYBUNA LUDU FROM BRUSSELS,
OBSERVED IN A JANUARY 12 ARTICLE ENTITLED, "THE COUNTRIES
OF THE COMMON MARKET WANT INDEPENDENCE", THAT ALTHOUGH
EC MEMBERS ARE COMING TO ACCEPT THE UTILITY, PERHAPS EVEN
THE NECESSITY OF CONSULTATION AMONG OIL CONSUMERS AND
PRODUCERS, THEY WOULD PREFER NOT TO CONNECT THEMSELVES
WITH THE UNITED STATES IN THIS VENTURE. BILIK CLAIMS
THE PREFERENCE OF EC MEMBERS FOR ACTION INDEPENDENT OF
THE U.S. IS BASED ON THEIR BELIEF THAT THEY ARE IN A
MORE ADVANTAGEOUS POSITION VIS-A-VIS THE ARAB STATES
THAN IS THE U.S., AND THAT THEY HAVE BETTER POSSIBILITIES
FOR ARRANGING FUTURE COOPERATION WITH OIL PRODUCERS THAN
DOES WASHINGTON. HE FINDS ADDITIONAL GROUNDS FOR THE
RELUCTANCE OF WESTERN EUROPEANS TO JOIN THE US INITIATIVE
IN THE CHANGED ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE US AND
EUROPE WHICH HAS RESULTED FROM THE RECOVERY OF THE DOLLAR
AND THE TURN-AROUND IN THE US BALANCE OF PAYMENTS.

3. IN TRYBUNA LUDU OF JANUARY 13, BILIK, VIRTUALLY THE
ONLY COMMENTATOR ON THIS TOPIC APPEARING IN THE LOCAL
PRESS, SUGGESTS THAT THE PRESIDENT'S INVITATION MIGHT YET
RECEIVE AN AFFIRMATIVE REPLY FROM WESTERN EUROPE, IN
SPITE OF THE RESERVATIONS OF THE EC MEMBERSHIP. HE CLAIMS
THAT THE BRUSSESL COMMISSION VIEWS WASHINGTON'S INITIATIVE
AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO ENERGIZE THE RECENTLY FALTERING EC.
FOR THIS REASON, HE SAYS, EC OFFICIALS QUICKLY ADVISED
THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS TO ACCEPT PRESIDENT NIXON'S
INVITATION ON BEHALF OF THE NINE AS A WHOLE, AND TO DIS-
REGARD THE FACT THAT INVITATIONS HAD BEEN EXTENDED ONLY
TO FIVE EC MEMBERS.
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4. TRYBUNA LUDU HAS ALSO SUMMARIZED WESTERN EUROPEAN
PRESS COMMENTARIES CRITICAL OF THE U.S. PROPOSAL, NOTING
A SERIES OF ALLEGED CONCERNS WHICH CENTER ON THE FEAR
THAT THE PLANNED CONFERENCE WOULD RESULT IN SUBORDINATION
OF EC INTERESTS TO THOSE OF THE U.S. THE POLISH PRESS
HAS DRAWN PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO PURPORTED APPREHENSION IN
WESTERN EUROPE THAT THE UNITED STATES IS STRIVING TO

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MAINTAIN THE "SUPREMACY" OF U.S. OIL COMPANIES.
DAVIES

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NNN

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Disposition Remarks:
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